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From: Gene Salorio [<mailto:gsalorio@mindspring.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 10:25 AM

To: John C. Carrington

Cc: Town Council; Public Works

Subject: walking paths

Dear Mr Carrington and Mansfield Transportation Advisory Committee

The new pedestrian path on North Eagleville Road is a first-rate improvement. Overall, I think the efforts over the past several years to make Mansfield more walkable and bikeable, and especially to increase safety for walking and biking activities by getting these off the roads, are excellent. I congratulate the town for making these improvements.

May I please suggest three additions? None of these is a major project and all would add significant benefits by connecting existing pedestrian paths to each other.

1. Connect the pedestrian walkway on North Eagleville Road to the pedestrian walkway on Separatist Road. This could be done either on Separatist Road itself (the portion from the intersection of Separatist and Hunting Lodge Extension to the intersection of Separatist and North Eagleville) or on Hunting Lodge Extension between Separatist and North Eagleville. Doing either of these would make it possible to walk directly from the intersection of Separatist and South Eagleville Road all the way to Route 44 and 4 Corners without having to walk on the street.

2. Extend the pedestrian path on South Eagleville Road (that now ends at Maple Road) to connect with the pedestrian path on Separatist Road that ends at South Eagleville Road. I know this has been discussed before.

Doing #1 and #2 would complete a terrific loop: from Town Hall up South Eagleville to Separatist, along Separatist (and possibly Hunting Lodge Extension) to North Eagleville, along North Eagleville to Hunting Lodge, along Hunting Lodge past the corner with Goodwin School and up Birch Road to Route 44, and along Route 44 to 4 Corners. Following a slightly different route through UConn it also would be possible to walk off road from Mansfield Downtown to 4 Corners.

3. Extend the new pedestrian path on North Eagleville past Northwood Apartments and Southwood Road (which has many walkers) down to Bone Mill Road. This could be completed pretty easily thru the woods there, even inside the watercourse to avoid wetlands issues. North Eagleville road is heavily travelled and has zero visibility coming

round the sharp turn where Bone Mill Road comes in. I regularly see walkers and runners (and teams of runners probably from EO Smith or UConn) coming down North Eagleville to run through the ravine. Bone Mill Road is lightly travelled so no need for a separate pedestrian path on it, but there's a real safety issue for runners and pedestrians and bikers on North Eagleville Road along the section of the road between the top of the hill at Northwood Apartments and where Bone Mill Road comes in.

And I note that doing #3 in conjunction with #1 and #2 would make it possible to walk and bike safely all the way from Town Hall and Mansfield Downtown to the Depot Campus. I'm not generally pro-development and I don't want to turn Mansfield into a city, but I'm very much in favor of improvements that get people out of cars by making it easier and safer for kids, students, seniors and everyone else to walk and bike around town and enjoy the beautiful area where we all live. That's good for all of us.

Thanks for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions

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